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**ASPULL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

For the Year ending 31st December, 1918.



# **Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health**

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1918.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Aspull Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1918.

The Local Government Board in a letter dated January 16th, 1919, suggested that the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health should be brief, giving the vital statistics for the year and a short account of any outbreaks of disease and prominent sanitary events of the year.

The most noteworthy outbreak of disease was the epidemic or rather pandemic of Influenza.

Influenza alone accounted for 47 deaths during the course of the year, causing the death roll to be exceptionally long.

Apart from those due to Influenza the total number of deaths was 122, which compares favourably with the figure (123) of last year.

Since the disease is not notified it is not possible to state the number of cases which occurred; hence it only possible to give statistics of cases which were fatal.

Commencing in the latter half of February the disease quickly became prevalent, but was of comparatively low virulence until March, in which month 2 deaths were recorded from this cause. It abated during the months of April, May, and June, in which period none of the cases proved fatal. In July the disease

became more widespread and more virulent, accounting for three deaths. The epidemic increased greatly during August, doubling the fatalities of the previous month. Subsiding slightly in September, the epidemic remained at this level until mid-October, 4 deaths accruing from the disease in each month respectively. Owing to the severe weather experienced in November, Influenza increased to an alarming extent, respiratory complications being prominent and often fatal. The death rate which had been steadily increasing during the year reached its climax in this month, 22 deaths from Influenza alone being recorded. The last month of the year witnessed a decline in the death roll, the number being reduced to 6, although the disease still rages fiercely. The potency and universality of the disease necessitated the closure of the schools in July, October, and the early part of November.

Owing to lack of accommodation isolation could not be practised, and so the spread of the disease could not be effectively controlled. Moreover, the fact that whole families were stricken down at once materially affected the termination of the malady.

#### HOUSING AND SANITATION.

The housing problem must of a necessity be seriously considered by your Council at an early date.

A circular issued by the Local Government Board on the 5th of February, 1919, states:—

“The Board desires to be supplied as soon as the Medical Officer of Health is in a position to make it, with a full report on the sanitary condition of the district at the close of the war, and on the sanitary needs of the district in the future.”

I propose therefore to submit to your Council a detailed report in accordance with the above recommendation.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

The figures furnished by the Registrar General are:

- (a) For the calculation of the Birth-rate, the population is to be taken as 8,026.
- (b) For the calculation of the Death-rate, the population is to be taken as 7,163.

**BIRTHS.**—The total for the year is 168, of which 91 were males and 77 females. The Birth-rate is therefore 20.9 per 1,000 of the population. Although this is lower than last year's rate (25.5 per 1,000) it is considerably above that Birth-rate for England and Wales (17.7 per 1,000).

**DEATHS.**—The total number of deaths for the year belonging to this District is 169, of which 85 were males and 84 females. The Death-rate is therefore 23.5 per 1,000.

The rate for England and Wales is 17.6 per 1,000.

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.**—The total number of deaths registered as occurring below the age of one year is 27, giving an Infantile Mortality of 148 per 1,000 births. This is also greater than the corresponding rate for last year, which was 119 per 1,000.

Particulars of these deaths:—

Congenital Debility .....	3
Premature Birth .....	3
Broncho-Pneumonia .....	6
Bronchitis .....	3
Whooping Cough .....	4
Diarrhoea .....	5
Intestinal Haemorrhage .....	1
Patent Foramen Ovale .....	1
Influenza .....	1

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—The deaths from Zymotic disease numbered 22, giving a Zymotic death-rate of 3.07 per 1,000. Last year the deaths from this cause numbered 21, with a death-rate of 2.78.

Particulars of these deaths:—

Measles .....	1
Whooping Cough .....	7
Diphtheria .....	1
Phthisis .....	1
Tubercular Meningitis .....	1
Other Tubercular Diseases .....	2
Diarrhoea .....	8
Enteric .....	1
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	22

ZYMOTIC DISEASE.—The total number of cases notified was 58. Last year the number was 135.

Particulars of these cases:—

Scarlet Fever .....	21
Enteric Fever .....	6
Measles, including German Measles .....	9
Erysipelas .....	6
Diphtheria .....	2
Croup .....	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	6
Tuberculosis .....	3
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	58

SCARLET FEVER.—This year only 21 cases were notified, showing a great improvement on last year's record of 35. There were no deaths from this cause.

ENTERIC FEVER.—6 cases were notified. There was one death. The majority of cases occurred in Lower Bolton Road. Last year only 2 cases were notified. One of these cases was fatal.

DIPHTHERIA AND CROUP.—Only 4 cases were notified. There was only one death.

MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES.—9 cases were notified, and 1 death from this cause recorded. Last year 135 cases were notified, and 8 deaths were recorded.

TUBERCULOSIS.—9 cases of this disease were notified. Of these, 6 were pulmonary, and 3 non-pulmonary.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—There was one death from this cause last year.

A summary of the work done by your Sanitary Inspector is appended.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

L. COOKE, M.O.H.

Aspull, March 3rd, 1919.

L. COOKE, Esq.,  
Medical Officer of Health, Aspull.

Summary of work done by Sanitary Inspector, Aspull U.D.C.,  
During the year ending December 31st, 1918.

Scarlet Fever .....	21
Typhoid Fever .....	6
Diphtheria .....	2
Removed to Sanatorium (Enteric 2, Scarlet 4) .....	6
Returned from Sanatorium .....	6
Houses Fumigated .....	29
Houses Cleaned .....	41
Stopped Drains .....	50
Defective Slopstone Pipes .....	14
Overcrowding .....	11
Privies Converted to W.C. ....	2
Number of Privies in the District .....	687
,, Ashpits in the District .....	293
,, Dry Ashpits in the District .....	60
,, Ashbins in the District .....	343
,, Pails in the District .....	6
,, W.C.'s outside houses .....	349
,, W.C.'s inside houses .....	51
,, W.C.'s at Schools .....	60
,, W.C.'s at Works .....	16
Privies Cleaned Out .....	2461
Ashpits Cleaned Out .....	1439
Ashbins Cleaned Out .....	14473
Pails Cleaned Out .....	659

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY GIBSON, Sanitary Inspector,  
Aspull.